

modular configuration of the present invention. In the one configuration, the side edges of a desk unit fit on top of a drawer unit. That portion of the drawer unit has no top at all, let alone a top that extends over the edge of a side support panel as claimed. Nor does the Barrister product employ a spacer as claimed in the present application. As discussed above, the spacer of the present invention is shown in FIG. 22 as element 96.

Because the Bannister unit is completely different from the present invention and does not disclose the claimed construction thereof, it is urged that Bannister be withdrawn as a reference and that all of the claims of the present application be allowed.

Since none of the other references cited in the present application were discussed and do not appear to be pertinent, these references are not discussed in detail herein.

If any further matters remain to be taken care of in order to expedite the allowance of this application, a telephone interview with applicant's attorney would be welcomed.

The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail with postage prepaid in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on this first day of November, 2006.

Respectfully submitted,

James O. Kelley, et al.

Dated: 11/1/06

By: John A. Waters
John A. Waters, Reg. No. 24,802
VARNUM, RIDDERING, SCHMIDT & HOWLETT LLP
Bridgewater Place
Post Office Box 352
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49501-0352
(616) 336-6000